



# BSS SIXTHFORM



## — GOOD LUCK YEAR 13!

Year 13 have been hard at work in the study room finishing their last pieces of coursework before the May 15<sup>th</sup> deadline and have already begun to sit some of their final external examinations.

Based on their March trial examinations, Year 13 are on track to get our **best ever** set of A-level results with our Value Added already showing as **+0.25**. This means that our students are achieving a quarter of a grade better than their target grades and we know this likely to rise further when they sit their actual papers as they have been working diligently in and out of lessons to consolidate their skills and knowledge. This value added would place us in line with third overall in terms of 6<sup>th</sup> form achievement within the local authority based on last year's results. Success like this is only possible because of the expertise of our KS5 teachers, the determination of our students and the fact that as a smaller sixth form we are able to personalise the work and support every student to reach their full potential.

It has been an absolute pleasure having Year 13 with us in the sixth form, whether they have been with us since the start of Year 7 or have joined the school at some point along the way. All have contributed to making the sixth form a successful, inclusive and welcoming community. We wish them every success as they head off for their study leave on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and look forward to celebrating their exam results with them on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August from 8:30am.

# UCAS & DESTINATIONS

28 of our Year 13 have applied through UCAS for a place at University for this September - with the deadline for accepting their offers on June 5<sup>th</sup> most of them have already logged on and made their firm and insurance choices.

As you can see from the logo's our students have been able to secure offers at a wide range of Russell Group universities' as well as centres of specialised excellence such as TEDI. The students have gone through rigorous online and face to face interviews for some highly competitive courses and institutions'. They have been well prepared and supported by the sixth form pastoral team with mock interviews and technical support for the online assessments.

Year 13 are heading off to study a diverse range of subjects in September including - Law, Pharmacy, English Literature & American Studies, Psychology, Diagnostic Radiography, Global Design Engineering, Biochemistry, Cybersecurity, Accounting, Marketing and Nursing.

The new application cycle for Year 12 has just opened. Tutorial time after half term will be devoted to starting the application process with workshops from University of Hertfordshire on how to complete the new style personal statements, followed by our whole year group visit to their Taster Day on the 5<sup>th</sup> June. Students should be favouring courses and institutions in Unifrog to stay up to date with when open days are going to take place.

Students can start creating their UCAS Accounts now at <https://www.ucas.com/> and linking them to the centre using our Buzzword BSS2026.



# LIFE IN THE SIXTH FORM

## — UNIVERSITY VISITS

### Newnham College, Cambridge

Last term Ms Sorton took 8 students who are on the Aim Higher programme to spend the day at Newnham College. There were various practical workshops to participate in including applying to competitive universities, and finding out about the range of super curricular activities available to students at Cambridge. They also had time to explore the campus and talk to current students who are studying there about their experiences. Here's what they thought of the day;

***"It largely influenced my decision to continue my educational journey into a Russell Group University. It motivated me to pursue a higher education,"***

***"To be visiting this university and seeing all the students walking around, made me realise I could be one them and it motivated me to be better in my studies"***

***"I was surrounded by like-minded people who shared similar goals at Cambridge, very inspiring..."***

### St Peter's, Oxford

The Aim Higher students were also able to visit our linked college at Oxford University - St Peter's. There was an introductory talk from the outreach team breaking down misconceptions about applying to Oxbridge and what types of students study there, questions and answers with existing students and a taster Academic session which let the students experience the level of work covered in a degree level tutorial.

***"the trip was very helpful in learning about university in general, particularly student finance, how to find out which course you want to do and university societies"***

***" This trip let me immerse myself into the mind of smart people"***

***"The trip was eye opening and very informative as I was able to learn more about the application process and the student lifestyle"***



# — PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

## Jack Petchey – Talk the Talk Workshop

The Year 12 Students spent the day off timetable to take part in the Talk the Talk Workshop. The aim of the day was for the students to;

- Identify employability skills
- Develop interview techniques
- Nurture presentation skills
- Improve connections with potential employers
- Boost self-esteem

In the first session the students were very quiet and not too keen on sharing their ideas but by the by the end of the day the students were putting into practise their new skills by taking part in mock interviews. The feedback from the session leader was that he was highly impressed with they way Year 12 participated throughout the day and that their interviews were of a really high standard. Well done!



**Talk The Talk**  
CONFIDENT COMMUNICATION FOR LIFE

***"It was fun and very different from the normal day to day stuff we do. It made us use our initiative and helped us to use skills that we can apply to real life situations."***

## National Interview Month

For the second year running the sixth form have participated in National Interview Month. Each student had an online mock interview with a volunteer from one of the partner companies. They received detailed feedback on their performance in the 30 minute interview and also on their CV.



***"It was a bit scary at first but got much easier as we chatted. It was a really good experience."***

# — PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

## Aim Higher

Our Aim Higher students have all shown the potential to be successful in applying to Russell Group Universities'. They have been meeting fortnightly with Ms Sorton (Pastoral Support Officer 6<sup>th</sup> Form) to develop the wider skills that will help them be successful when applying to competitive university courses. The students have co-created the content of their group sessions. They chose areas such as networking and confident communication, identifying personal skills and qualities, SMART goal setting, interview practice and skills, building resilience and self care. Here's what the students feel they have gained from participating in the programme so far;

***"the group has helped me deal with the stress that comes alongside A levels"***

***"sharing opinions and learning from the rest of the group about things they do to help themselves such as staying fit, de-stressing and networking"***

***"encouraged me to do super curricular activities relating to my subjects"***

***"helped me to build a confidence to subjects relating to employment such as practice interviews".***



# — SUBJECT BASED ENRICHMENT

## Track to the Future - Project Management Programme

We are delighted to have partnered with The Talent Foundry to participate in the RSSB - Track to the Future Project.



During the Spring and Summer Term, 20 of our Y12 Students, who are studying either BTEC Engineering or BTEC Applied Science will be working with mentors from Network Rail - who own, operate, maintain, and develop Britain's railway infrastructure. This includes the track, bridges, tunnels, signals, level crossings, and stations. They also manage some of the largest and busiest railway stations in the country.

The first session took place just before Easter - the students spent the morning finding out about the company and the different aspects of project management. They then had to start to devise a project that each group will work on for the rest of the year to re-purpose redundant sites at stations and bus depots with a key theme of community and sustainability. There were some really creative ideas being shared - some so good that the mentors were keen to steal them to pitch themselves!

Next time the students will be going up to London to visit Transport for London's head office to begin to develop their pitches. We can't wait to see the finished projects later this year!



***"I loved it!. The designated person we worked with from Arriva was so helpful and fun. Looking forward to the next session."***

# — SUBJECT BASED ENRICHMENT

## Wellcome Collection Visit

In February Ms Budweg, Ms Sorton and 24 Level 2 and Level 3 Health & Social Care students visited the Wellcome Collection Museum's, "the Hard Graft and Being Human Gallery". This was an opportunity for students to explore the history of healthcare, politics and how healthcare has changed over the centuries.

They also got an opportunity to explore unique ways of creating word maps which linked directly to their coursework. Additionally, students could explore how global pandemics, such as Ebola were dealt with including the challenges healthcare professionals face.



# — SUBJECT BASED ENRICHMENT

## Black Tech Fest 2024

In October some of our Year 12 Business, ICT and Engineering students got the chance to attend the Black Tech fest event at Drumsheds in the Meridian Water Development.

It celebrated Black culture, innovation, and tech, with a focus on diversity and inclusivity. It showcased Black talent in tech and fostered networking and learning opportunities. The students attended panels, cultural experiences, and a summit for students and early career professionals focusing on ways into tech industries.

This was an eye opening experience for our students and has really motivated them with their studies.



## Bridgewood House

The Level 2 & Level 3 Health & Social Care Students are undertaking a number of visits to Bridgewood House, a local care home, this year as part of their programme of study.

Students have been devising activities to run when they are at the centre and putting into practise the theories they have been learning about in lessons on person-centered care and effective communication techniques.

The first group to visit put together and then ran a quiz session for the residents. The centre manager thought they did an excellent job of engaging with the residents and getting them actively involved in the quiz we are really proud of how well they represented the school in the local community.



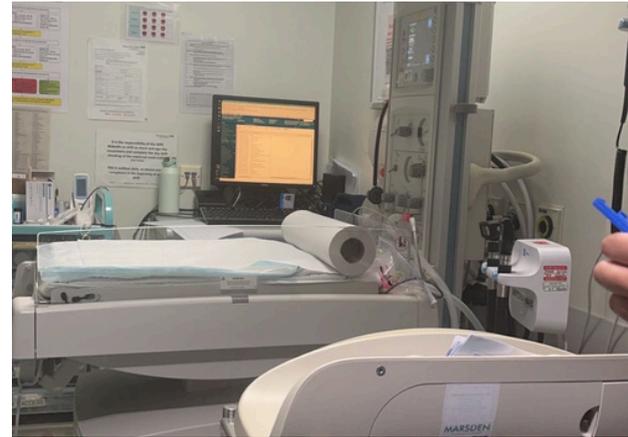
***"Some of the residents were really competitive! They particularly loved the music and film questions that we wrote."***

## CAREERS

### Barnet Hospital – Midwifery Day

We were lucky to secure 6 places for students who are interested in a career as a midwife to attend the Midwifery Experience Day at Barnet Hospital. Students heard from the staff who deliver the Midwifery degree course at Middlesex University about the structure and content of a typical degree course, how to structure a good application and the typical questions they might be asked at interview. Students also spoke to the staff who work in the Maternity unit about the reality of working as a midwife in the NHS.

***“It was really informative and so real. We got to learn and see lots of exciting things, including a newly delivered placenta!”***



### University & Apprenticeship Fair

Year 12 have already started thinking about what happens after A-level. In October they spent the day at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium exploring the stands of more than 80 University and Apprenticeship providers. The students got to participate in seminars about how to write a good personal statement, what is a degree apprenticeship and hearing about what life is like at a number of different Russell Group Universities. They spent the majority of their time visiting the stands and finding out about what different universities have to offer in terms of courses, facilities and social activities - they also picked up a lot of goody bags!



# CAREERS

## Goldsmiths University – Be Bold With Gold

The Sixth Form welcomed ambassadors from Goldsmiths University to take part in their “**Be Bold with Gold**” workshop.

During the morning students got to find out about university accommodation, transport and how student finance, scholarships, bursaries and grants work. They also heard from current undergraduates about day-to-day life as a student - how many hours of study, seminars and lectures they have a week and how a degree course is structured, as well as about the all-important university social life - societies and other fun to be had on and off campus.



*“We learnt about university life, the varied range of different courses there were and all the types of clubs and societies. This session gave me loads of information and answered lots of questions I had”*

## Unifrog

Unifrog is our one stop resource for all of your careers research. The sixth form have been building their skills profiles, finding out what career pathways match their interests, researching apprenticeship pathways and writing their CV's.

Remember to keep adding to your skills profiles as you complete work for your studies or volunteer with activities inside and outside of school.

<https://www.unifrog.org/>

**unifrog**  
The universal careers platform



## BSS SIXTHFORM

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Bishop Stopford's School is "a nurturing and harmonious community based on equality" where "leaders have high expectations and show determination that pupils can flourish. The school's motto of 'believe, strive, succeed' is at the heart of what the school does each day."  
Ofsted 2024

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